



State of California  
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**Inquiry:** Is it within the scope of practice for an RCP to draw samples of arterial and venous blood from a section of cut umbilical cord? I've seen the same practice at other facilities, where ABG syringes were used to draw from the vessels in the cord section..

**Response:** The function of drawing a blood sample from a cut umbilical cord is definitely within the scope of the licensed respiratory care practitioner. Current literature suggests a preferred clinical care plan when the arterial to venous blood pH show a significant gradient.

Please keep in mind that the onus is on the organized health care system to determine and institute appropriate policies, practice guidelines, training and competencies that would provide this function in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public.

Reference #: 2005-C-02